



VILAS COUNTY SHERIFF

330 Court Street
Eagle River, WI 545421

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Joseph A. Fath, Vilas County Sheriff
Mark Collins, Chief Deputy
715-479-4441

IRS Scams Continue

Wednesday, April 08, 2015, Eagle River, WI – Vilas County

The Vilas County Sheriff's Office would like to remind residents of recent IRS Telephone Scams. Please do not give out any personal information. Terminate any suspicious calls.

IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information.

If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Note that the IRS will never: 1) call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill; 2) demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe; 3) require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card; 4) ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or 5) threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Email Phishing Scam: "Update your IRS e-file"

The IRS has been alerted to a new email phishing scam. The emails appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus web site intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the

direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." The emails mention USA.gov and IRSgov (without a dot between "IRS" and "gov"), though notably, not IRS.gov (with a dot). Don't get scammed. These emails are not from the IRS.

Taxpayers who get these messages should not respond to the email or click on the links. Instead, they should forward the scam emails to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov. For more information, visit the IRS's [Report Phishing](#) web page.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information.

Learn how to [protect your personal information](#).

You may also report instances of IRS-related phishing attempts and fraud to the [Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration](#) at 1-800-366-4484.